

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

S E C R E T STATE 010605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN PERCEPTION OF THE US

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ROGERS

1. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AND THOSE OF YOUR COUNTRY TEAM ON HOW U.S. POWER, POSTURE AND POLICIES ARE CURRENTLY PERCEIVED IN YOUR COUNTRY. WATERGATE, THE OUTCOME OF THE VIETNAM WAR, REVELATIONS OF US INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS AND THE ANGOLA AFFAIR HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED LOCAL OPINION, BOTH PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL. A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THESE REACTIONS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. WE DID A MONTHLY TRENDS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY LAST APRIL ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE VIETNAM WITHDRAWAL. WHAT WE WOULD LIKE

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NOW IS AN UP-DATED STUDY TO DETERMINE WHETHER AND HOW

CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE US AFFECT THEIR POLICIES. I SUGGEST THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, YOUR COMMENTS BE BASED ON INFORMATION ALREADY AT HAND; INQUIRIES WHICH MIGHT SUGGEST UNUSUAL INTEREST OR CONCERN SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

2. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE

FOLLOWING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, THOUGH THIS IS BY NO MEANS AN EXCLUSIVE LIST:

A. WHAT ARE LOCAL PERCEPTIONS OF US STRENGTHS AND VULNERABILITIES BASED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE VIETNAM WAR, WATERGATE, REVELATIONS IN THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS OF US INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE US IN CHILE, ETC?

B. HAS THE OUTCOME IN VIETNAM HAD A NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON YOUR COUNTRY'S VIEW OF US ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO LIVE UP TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS?

C. HOW DOES YOUR HOST COUNTRY VIEW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS IN TERMS OF THE ABILITY OF THE US TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS COMMITMENTS? DO SUCH DIFFERENCES AFFECT YOUR COUNTRY'S READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH AND DEPEND ON THE US?

D. DOES YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND THE US POLITICAL PROCESS? DOES IT UNDERSTAND THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE CONGRESS? DOES IT BELIEVE THE EXECUTIVE IS INSINCERE OR HALF-HEARTED IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO GET FOREIGN POLICY MEASURES AFFECTING LATIN AMERICA THROUGH CONGRESS?

E. DO YOU PERCEIVE ANY CHANGES IN TRADITIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE US? IF SO, ARE THESE LIKELY TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS TO TIES WITH THE US?

F. HOW DOES CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AND OUR REACTION TO IT AFFECT THE HOST COUNTRY'S ATTITUDE?

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G. WHAT ARE LOCAL VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF DEALING COLLECTIVELY WITH THE US, INCLUDING RESORT TO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA), RATHER THAN BILATERALLY?

H. ARE CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF THE US INFLUENCING

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S VOTING POSITION IN THE UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS?

I. IS THE HOST GOVERNMENT TURNING TO ANOTHER NATION TO REPLACE THE ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE US? COULD THIS HAVE ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR THE US, SUCH AS A REDUCTION IN THE FLOW OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS

OR OTHER EXPORTS TO, OR IN THE SALE OF US PRODUCTS IN THE HOST COUNTRY? OTHER CONSEQUENCES?

J. WHAT VIEW DOES YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT HAVE OF THE WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY OF THE US TO MEET THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, AS IT PERCEIVES THEM.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR VIEWS ON THESE QUESTIONS BY JANUARY 30. KISSINGER

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